



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
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FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **FEBRUARY 18, 2009**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó  
Frank Bacio  
Barbara Bigby  
Rita Hall  
John A. Hammargren  
Carl E. Moore

##### **Excused Absence**

Vito Cannella

##### **Others Present**

Captain Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department  
Lieutenant Holly Perez, Sheriff's Department  
Sergeant Brett Lisle, LCMC Sheriff's Department  
Javier Rodriguez, Probation Department  
Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services  
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services  
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services  
Greta Walters, Department of Auditor-Controller  
Cesar Menchaca, Internal Services Department  
Alan P. Henry, Community Care Licensing  
Angelica Lopez, Community Care Licensing  
Kimberly Foster, Commission for Children and Families

##### **Staff**

Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff  
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Chair Montaña welcomed everyone in attendance and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Commissioner Moore joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

### **Sheriff's Department:**

Lieutenant Holly Perez introduced herself and informed the Commission she is representing Commander Margaret Wagner and then gave the following report for the period of January 21, 2009 – February 13, 2009:

- The grand total of inmate assaults on staff was 11.
- The total number of staff personnel injured was 5.
- The total number of inmates injured was 9.
- There was a total of zero (0) complaints by inmates regarding the use of force by deputy personnel.
- Safety concerns have been raised regarding officers being required to walk a long distance to and from their lockers without their duty belt at the new jail ward at LAC/USC Medical Center.

Sergeant Brett Lisle introduced himself and gave the following report:

- There are security concerns at the old jail ward at LAC/USC Medical Center because the elevators frequently do not function properly.
- Mr. Lisle will provide the Commission with a list of concerns regarding both jails.

Captain Asmus reported the following:

- Temporary holding cells for special handling inmates have been installed in Department 95 (San Fernando Courthouse) allowing inmates to use the restrooms and return to the cell pending their court appointments. Temporary holding cells will be implemented in Pasadena Court to solve the issue of over crowding.
- The "Custody Assistants Pilot Program" in Court Services has been successful. The Custody Assistant personnel handle the paperwork of inmates, dealing with releases, DNA and processing Live Scan. Eight additional Custody Assistants will be employed in the court lockup.
- The "Video Arraignment System" has been implemented in the Glendale Court and has eliminated the need for transportation of inmates.

**Probation Department:**

Mr. Javier Rodriguez introduced himself and informed the Commission he is representing Mr. Michael Varela, and reported the following:

- Camp Monitors will be inspecting all Probation Camps. The monitors met for three (3) days at Camp Holton.

**Department of Children and Family Services:**

Ms. Dorothy Channel reported the following for the period of January 1, 2009 - February 17, 2009 and then reported on three articles:

- The reported number of physical abuse allegations was 7.
- The reported number of sexual abuse allegations was 6.
- The reported number of general neglect allegations was 7.
- The reported number of runaways from group homes was 263.
- Zenith Group Home has voluntarily closed its site.
- Group Homes with a "Shelter Component" are allowed to accept homeless children from the community.
- The "Ninth Annual Glamour Gown Event", helps high school girls in the Los Angeles County Foster Care System receive a free formal gown and accessories for their special prom night.
- The "City of Los Angeles Public Works High School Internship Program", is a six week paid internship program for current juniors and graduating seniors interested in engineering, architecture or construction.
- The "Young Women's Empowerment Network, Inc. Presents", "Girl Prep", an empowerment conference to reach and teach pre-teen girls aged 10-13 to promote community activism, leadership and access to opportunities in their communities.
- "Team Decision Making Process" is a method used for placement of difficult children, in conjunction with the Resource Utilization Management (RUM) which allows age appropriate children to participate in their placement when appropriate.

Ms. Elizabeth Howard reported the following:

- Michelle Travis Inc. Home has voluntarily closed its site.

**Department of Auditor-Controller:**

Ms. Greta Walters introduced herself and informed the Commission she is representing Ms. Carla Carr.

**Department of Mental Health:** No representative was present.

**Internal Services Department:**

Mr. Cesar Menchaca introduced himself and informed the Commission he is representing Mr. Michael Henderson.

**Community Care Licensing Division:**

Ms. Angelica Lopez gave the following report:

- Community Care Licensing is conducting business as usual. With the implementation of furlough days, the offices will be closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday's of each month.
- Title 22, General Licensing Requirements states that group home facilities are required to develop a Needs and Services Plan for each child and to have the child's placement representative sign the plan within 30 days of placement.

Mr. Alan P. Henry gave the following report:

- United Corporation is going through a Corporation name change.
- Optimist Boys Home (Altadena) – 44, #5, has officially closed as of 1/26/09.

Chair Montaña and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11, 2009, MEETING MINUTES**

**On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Vice Chair Bacio, and unanimously carried, the minutes of February 11, 2009, were approved with no changes.**

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montaña reported on three (3) news articles:

- "Probation Policy Scrutinized", Daily Breeze, February 14, 2009, regarding caregivers of detained youths being billed by the Probation Department for taking the youths in regardless of the caregivers income.

- “Families Balk At Probation Bills”, Los Angeles Times, February 14, 2009, regarding a teacher who took in 16 year old twins from a Los Angeles County Probation Camp and the county has billed the teacher \$10,000 for providing for the twins.
- “Probation Suspends Billing Guardians”, Los Angeles Times, February 14, 2009, regarding a decision by Mr. Robert Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, Los Angeles County Probation Department to stop sending out letters and collecting money from caregivers until the department reviews and examines the process.

### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission’s Charitable Fund is \$990.93.

### **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION 2008 REPORT OF INSPECTION**

The “Sybil Brand Commission 2008 Report of Inspections” was distributed to the Commission.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORT**

There was none.

### **FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2009, TO FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

#### **GLASS (Wilton) – 24, #3 – Commissioners Bacio and Moore**

The facility was visited on February 12, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

#### **Children Are Our Future (Terry) – 9, #2 – Commissioner Bigby**

The facility was visited on February 13, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Area of Concern:** Needs two (2) fire extinguishers.

#### **Zenith Youth Home #III – 63, #4 – Commissioners Bacio and Hall**

The facility was visited on February 17, 2009, and the home is closed.

#### **New Outlook Boys Home – 40, #2 – Commissioners Montañó and Hammargren**

The facility was visited on February 17, 2009, and no one was home.

### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was none.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

There was none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janice Davis*  
Commission Services Division